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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /055 W
----------071816Z 059355 /53
O 071638Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1393
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1072

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PINT
SUBJ: ELECTION

1. WITH THE POLLS NOW CLOSED IN KARACHI, THERE IS GOOD ORDER IN THE CITY. HOWEVER, THERE WERE SEVERAL SCUFFLES DURING THE DAY BETWEEN RIVAL PARTY WORKERS IN THE VICINITY OF POLLING STATIONS. ONE OF THESE IN NAZIMABAD INVOLVED THE USE OF FIREARMS, AND THREE OTHERS IN LYARI WERE MARKED BY SUBSTANTIAL EXCHANGES OF GUNFIRE AND A NUMBER OF PERSONS REPORTED KILLED.

2. THE SECURITY FORCES PROMPTLY BROUGHT THESE INCIDENTS UNDER CONTROL AND RESTORED ORDER. APART FROM THE REGULAR POLICE, UNITS OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE, THE FRONTIER CONSTABULARY AND THE ARMY WERE IN EVIDENCE IN KARACHI IN POSITION TO REACT QUICKLY WHEN NEEDED.

3. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE WERE PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS BY BOTH PARTIES TO STUFF THE BALLOT BOXES THROUGH REPETITIVE VOTING, "GUIDANCE" OF VOTERS AND OTHER MEANS. THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A PARTICULAR EFFORT AT SEVERAL POLLING PLACES TO PREVENT WOMEN FROM VOTING OR TO CONTROL THEIR VOTES IN VARIOUS WAYS. PAKISTANI
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CONTACTS UNIFORMLY EXPRESS THE CYNICAL VIEW THAT AT LEAST MINOR VOTE FRAUD IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNING PARTY IS WIDESPREAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE COMPETENT POLL WATCHERS ARE FEW, BUT WE HAVE NO RELIABLE REPORTS OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE KARACHI AS YET.

4. EARLY IN THE DAY WE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM USUALLY WELL INFORMED

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JOURNALIST SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT A LARGE SCALE VOTE FRAUD SCHEME IN SIND TO PROVIDE THE PPP WITH THE MARGIN NECESSARY TO OVERCOME EXPECTED LOSSES IN THE PUNJAB. WE WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A SCHEME, WHICH WAS SAID TO INVOLVE THE SUBSTITUTION OF PRE-STUFFED BALLOT BOXES FOR THOSE ACUALLY USED, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME THAT SUCH A PLAN WAS ACTUALLY PUT INTO EFFECT. IF IT WAS, OR IS
,
IMPLEMENTED, SUCCESSFUL CONCEALMENT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AND A VIOLENT PROTEST FROM THE PNA WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT.
MOORE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS
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Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, PK
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